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1. Before the advent to power of the Soviet Government, all means of communication (rail, road, and river) in the Ukraine came under the control of the Ministry of Transportation. At the beginning of the Soviet regime, this system was retained. At a later date, road and river communications were placed under the control of a separate People's Commissariat. Railways alone remained under the People's Commissariat, which later became the Ministry of Transportation (MPS).
2. The Ministry of Transportation, like the separate ministries for road and river traffic, has authority throughout the entire Union. None of the Union Republics has its own ministry for any kind of communications. There are, however, railway directorates and trusts which are directly subordinate to the Ministry of Transportation of the USSR.
3. Certain material which forms an essential part of the railways is not and never has been manufactured or controlled by the railway authorities. Such material includes: locomotives, railway cars, rails, ties and posts, pipes and water pumps, electric machinery, bridges, and cranes. The foregoing material is manufactured by production enterprises belonging to various economic groups. Research, planning, and construction come directly under the authority of the Ministry of Transportation. The authority of the local directorates is limited to that which concerns railway exploitation.
4. The task of the railway authorities is the maintenance of the economy of the railways in a condition which will enable satisfactory exploitation. Work of a more fundamental nature is performed by special trusts, some of which are subordinate to the Ministry of Transportation; others are under the jurisdiction of different economic groups. The maintenance of locomotive parks is carried out by the locomotive service, which has at its disposal locomotive depots where outfitting, inspection, light and normal repairs are carried out.

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